

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended, Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference
<b>Vote:</b>	7 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Cowan, Gelser, Gilliam, Kotek, Maurer, Olson, Tomei
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Andy Smith, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	3/23, 4/18

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Appropriates moneys from General Fund to the Housing and Community Services Department and Department of Human Services for the Foster Grandparents Program, the Senior Corps Program, and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2007.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Stipends for volunteers and possible conflict with wage and hour laws
- Changing demographics and number of available volunteers
- Number of participants in current programs
- History of federal funding levels for senior volunteer programs

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Ensures that state monies used to fund volunteer stipends do not trigger federal wage and hour laws.

**BACKGROUND:** The Foster Grandparents Program recruits, trains and places low-income seniors in elementary schools throughout the state. Foster grandparents tutor and mentor students and help teach life and civic engagement skills. In 2005, more than 500 foster grandparents served approximately 9,100 children in the state, including children with disabilities (1,400), language barriers (470), adjudicated youth (322), children who have been abused or neglected (200), children in foster care (120) and children whose parents are incarcerated (211).

The Senior Companion Program allows low-income seniors to visit and assist lonely and isolated seniors in a variety of settings, including private homes, apartments, assisted living facilities, group homes, and other institutions. The program also helps provide respite care and may help provide for in-home needs such as food preparation, household chores, and transportation. In 2005, 278 senior companion volunteers assisted approximately 1,730 older Oregonians. Senior companion volunteers are 60 years or older and receive a tax-free \$2.65 per hour stipend. There is currently a wait list of 200 seniors who are seeking assistance from the Senior Companion program.

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) helps keep older Oregonians active and healthy throughout the state based on their skills and interests by facilitating volunteer opportunities in hospitals, schools and other community organizations. Anyone 55 years of age or older is eligible to become an RSVP volunteer, whatever their level of experience, education, or income. RSVP is coordinated through 15 counties. In Jackson County, RSVP has more than 800 registered senior volunteers who provide volunteer services to over 100 non-profit organizations. Approximately 500 of these volunteers were active in each calendar quarter; the program recorded 119,099 community service hours during the 2002 fiscal year.

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***This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.***